

# Noodle Rat Rotten Hat

(Little Red Riding Hood)

*Book, Music and Lyrics  
by Gary LaVigne*

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## **DEDICATION**

*To my own Miki and Dominique  
&  
All of my theatre kids*

## **STORY OF PLAY**

Enter the enchanted forest where Little Red Riding Hood is gathering flowers before going to Grandmother's. Jack-o, a scared crow, tries to get the kids in the audience to warn Red that a wolf is stalking her, but Red's not afraid. Any wolf who calls her Noodle Rat Rotten Hat because of a speech problem – why, he's nothing but a big, sweet doggie! Soon Little Red meets others, including a demanding Goldilocks; brave Hansel and Gretel; and bevy of bears on holiday. But they've all gotten lost and a mean witch is threatening them. Can they outsmart the witch and can Wolf help them? Some songs include the "Holiday for Spaghetti Birds (Teddy Bears)"; Red's "Give Me a Hand, Give Me a Paw"; Goldilock's "Spoiled Rotten," and "Hamster and Gecko's (Hansel and Gretel's) Surprise." Songs by three Woodsprites throughout the show add to the fun.

Performance time about an hour.

## **ORIGINAL PRODUCTION**

The show was originally performed as a summer musical by the Naples Players Children's Academy in Naples, Florida.

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(2-4 m, 5-7 w, numerous extras as desired)*

- JACK-O:** The scared crow, our guide throughout the story. May be played as a puppet or a real child. He's a wise-cracker who has flown around and seen a lot.
- RUSTIC:** Woodsprite. Can be male or female. A spirit of the woods. Devilish and quick, and loves to make sport of visitors. Means no harm, only fun.
- SYLVAN:** Another Woodsprite. Can be male or female.
- TWIG:** Another Woodsprite. Can be male or female.
- LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD:** Clever, confident, and unafraid. She makes friends easily, is a sharp thinker, and at home in the forest.
- THE WOLF:** Very mixed-up guy. He opens as a typical, "big, bad wolf," but has a major change of heart. Since he never went to school, he has a habit of choosing words that only sound like the right ones.
- BEARS:** Are carefree, fun-loving, and unique. There may be as many bears as there is room and actors to play them, with each one aptly named for its predominant characteristic or child-actor's special talent: Ballerina Bear, Bouncy Bear, Buffy Bear, Booky Bear, Giggly Bear, etc.
- BIG SISTER BEAR:** Watches over her charges, but is not all grown-up herself.
- BINKY BEAR:** The baby with a pacifier on a ribbon which she spits out before every speech.
- GOLDILOCKS:** Prima donna. She is spoiled, rude and self-centered, but only because she has not been taught good manners. In the course of the play becomes a good sport.
- HANSEL:** Courageous, protective big brother. He is generous, brave and kind.
- GRETEL:** Imaginative girl who loves to tell tales. In spite of her asthmatic condition, she would still rather be the teller than the listener of any exciting story.
- THE WITCH:** Mean and evil, especially to children, who are her favorite diet. She is very suspicious.
- CHILD WITCH:** (optional)

**The Place:** In a deep forest.

**The Time:** A long time ago.

### **Synopsis of Songs**

**“The Overture”** *Music only*

**“Woodsprites #1: Welcome”** *Woodsprites*

**“The Stalking Wolf #1, #2 and #3”** *Jack-o*

**“The Stalking Wolf #4”** *Jack-o*

**“Diddle Oy?”** *Wolf and Jack-o*

**“Holiday for Spaghetti Birds”** *Bears*

**“Don’t Be Shy”** *Red Riding Hood*

**“Return of the Spaghetti Birds”**

*Red Riding Hood and Bears*

**“Give Me a Hand, Give Me a Paw”**

*Red Riding Hood and Bears*

**“Woodsprites #2: Wait”** *Woodsprites*

**“Goldilocks #1: Somebody Special”** *Goldilocks*

**“Goldilocks #2: Spoiled Rotten”** *Goldilocks*

**“Goldilocks #3: Duh? Hello??”** *Goldilocks*

**“Woodsprites #3: Watch!”** *Woodsprites*

**“Give Me a Hand Again!”**

*Red Riding Hood, Bears, and Goldilocks*

**“Hamster and Gecko’s Surprise”** *Hansel and Gretel*

**“Woodsprites #4: Warning!”** *Woodsprites*

**“Give Me a Hand, One More Time”**

*All except Woodsprites and Witch*

**“Squeeze a Spoon and See Ya Soon”**

*All except Woodsprites and Witch*

**“Oh, What Fun!”** *Finale and curtain call*

**CD:** *A complete CD with rehearsal (singing) and performance (music and SFX) tracks is available. Please contact the publisher to order with your cast scripts.*

## **SCENERY IDEAS**

Main stage is a forest of trees with one large tree mid-stage. This tree is backed by a black 6-foot stepladder. The trees may be constructed of rolled chicken wire covered with muslin soaked in brown paint and glue. Other alternatives might be painted 12-foot flats, or plywood cutouts, or long narrow pieces of brown cloth stapled to a half round plywood base. Leaves may be hung from teasers. On the UPS wall, there could be more trees painted in perspective.

Downstage scenes play in front of a curtain, or a painted drop or traveler, or a group of portable flats which are painted in a forest motif.

Jack-o perches on a stepladder behind a tree, bush, or any elevated spot DL or DR. Stump may be constructed of a wood frame and chicken wire like the trees or an actual stump. It should be sturdy.

## **PROPS**

Basket with handle and wafer cookies covered with napkin  
Flowers stuck in moss at base of trees  
Basket with handle and 2 bright tablecloths  
Teddy bear and pacifier  
3 real or fake branches with leaves  
Broom (old and shabby, may be homemade)  
Small waist pouch to hold gingerbread and "gold" pieces  
Watering can  
Two signs

## **COSTUMES**

**JACK-O:** A baseball cap with extended brim for a yellow bill and a black pants and shirt, with feathered wings for arms. Bulging eyes may be stuck to the cap, if desired.

**THE WOODSPRITES:** Since they are part of the woods, they have leaves decorating their long-sleeved T-shirts and tights, dyed green. Perhaps a wreath of leaves in their hair, and a leaf or two painted on their faces would be fun. They may also hold comedy-tragedy masks in their hands.

**RED RIDING HOOD:** A homespun, old fashioned look with cotton dress, apron, red cape with hood (*lying flat most of the time*), stockings and short English riding boots. Her colors may be red, plaid and cream.

**THE WOLF:** He may wear a complete wolf or dog costume (*which is quite warm*) or bib overalls, long-sleeved shirt, and boots and gloves covered with fake fur. A cap of fake fur, and a plastic canine nose will top it off. After ears, the rest is makeup, leaving expressive eyes and mouth.

**BEARS:** Simple ski caps with cowls made of various colored fake fur, and 2 colored ears sewn in. (*Pattern available at fabric stores.*) Regular jeans and long-sleeved shirts, little felt vests and fur mitts and booties (*optional*) or sneakers. Ballerina Bear would have tights and tutu, Binky Bear a bib, Bouncy Bear gym clothes. Big Sister Bear would wear similar bear clothes with an apron added.

**GOLDILOCKS:** She is a city girl with perhaps a pink dress with puff sleeves, white lacy apron, white panty hose and black shiny shoes. She could have a pink ribbon in her long, curly, blond wig.

**HANSEL:** In the Bavarian style of white shirt with appliqué, gray short pants with suspenders, knee socks, shoes, topped off by an Alpine hat with feather ... or not.

**GRETEL:** In a colorful dress with crisscross piping in front, puffy sleeves, apron, knee socks and short boots. Braided hair or wig with ribbons.

**THE WITCH:** Typical traditional black dress and cape, with ugly black wig and tall, pointy hat. Maybe a long, crooked fake nose as well.

## **End of Freeview**

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